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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT 3 VP Bereitschaft in Burg

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The attached [REDACTED] information on the 3 VP Bereitschaft in Burg is sent to you for retention in the belief that it may be of interest to you. Your attention is called particularly to paragraphs 14 and 16.

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Encl.: 1 report (6 pages)

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Subject: 3 VP BEREITSCHAFT BURG.1. 3. VP. Bereitschaft BURG: Stamp III/3 DvDI.Location: MR. M 53/Y 828190 on the former German airfield.
Strength: About 1400 men.

Commander: Pol.-Rat THILDE (Former German air force officer).
 Deputy & P/K: Pol.-Rat SCHWIRTZ.
 Chief of Staff: O-Kommissar STEINICKE.
 Organisationsleiter: Pol.-Rat HAASS.
 Verpflegung: Pol.-Meister BOROWSKI.
 Bekleidung: Pol.-Meister HAUPT.
 Verwaltung: O-Kommissar KISSELING.
 Kraftfahrzeuge: Oberwachm. SCHULZ Arthur.
 Waffen: Pol.-Meister MARX.

2. The Bereitschaft is divided into 4 Companies, the Company into 6 platoons, the platoon into 4 groups.

Commander of the 1. Company is the Pol.-Rat GOTTSCHALK.
 " 2. Company " " Hauptwachmeister GLUSE.
 " 3. Company " " Kommissar SCHULZE.
 " 4. Company " " Kommissar HANKE.

Additional to these 4 Companies the Bereitschaft has

- (a) one Verpflegungsstaffel of about 60 men.
- (b) one Waffenstaffel of about 25 men.
- (c) one Bekleidungsstaffel of about 60 men.
- (d) one Einsatzstaffel of about 150 to 160 men.

Strength of each Company 250 men.

3. (a) The Verpflegungsstaffel has 6 vehicles HORCH lorries of new manufacture,

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The Commander is Pol.-Meister BOROWSKI in charge of rations.

The rations are fetched every fortnight either from the KONSUM BURG or DESSAU. At other times, members of the Verpflegungsstaffel are used for car repairs and reconstruction work on destroyed garages.

(b) The Waffenstaffel has 4 HORCH lorries and the task of supplying the Bereitschaft with arms. Most of them arrive at night time and are fetched from the DvDI store in BERLIN. Recently only new rifles 98 K and Russian type machine-pistols with round magazines arrived.

The Commander is Pol.-Meister MARX in charge of weapons.

(c) The Bekleidungsstaffel has 3 HORCH lorries and the task of supplying clothing. Summer and winter clothes arrive from the main DvDI supply store in BERLIN-FRIEDRICHSTADT. The Commander is Pol.-Meister HAUPT.

(d) The Einsatzstaffel has 4 HORCH lorries and 2 OPEL-Kadett cars. The unit is used only for special tasks. Early in October 49 a big search was carried out for [REDACTED] in police officers' uniforms in the area BURG-GENTHIN-BRANDENBURG. Results were not known,

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but the Einsatzstaffel took part for 3 days in searches and the whole Bereitschaft was held at Alarm degree 1 during that period.

4. Members of this Einsatzstuffed of the Bereitschaft receive the ordinary police training and additional training in night exercises and night battles. It consists mostly of elder police members with a number of younger ones.

Its commander is the P/K Pol.-Rat SCHWIRZ and his Deputy is Komissar DONAKOSKI.

The Unit is divided into platoons and groups.

5. The Bereitschaft was formed in April 49 in QUEDLINBURG and on 28.8.49 transferred to BURG.

It will be used as an ordinary infantry unit and provided the supply of further vehicles materialises, will be changed later into a fully motorised infantry unit.

6. The Bereitschaft members receive a daily 2 hours political indoctrination, 2 hours Russian language, and the rest of the time is spent on military and weapon training with rifles 98K, machine-pistols 42, Russian type machine-pistol with round magazine and a Russian heavy type mortar.

7. The mortars are handled only by the No 1 Company under Pol.-Rat GOTTSCHALK, and they receive specialised training. Pol-Rat GOTTSCHALK is a former German army officer. Nearly all mortars are of Russian type and only a few of those used were of German origin. The Company has 18 mortars, on its establishment.

Police members of the No 1 Company receive daily training at the near-by training ground from 1400-1700 hours. Twice a week joint exercises with the other Companies are held on the training ground. All the training is permanently supervised by the Russian liaison officer, who often attends personally. Every fortnight shooting practice with mortars is held on the shooting range. Informant is not sure if real shells or only training shells were used.

The 2nd, 3rd and 4th Companys will be used only for normal infantry actions and are trained therefore on rifle and machine-pistols.

8. The Bereitschaft has own telephone exchange and teleprinter. The No is 051 and all lines go via the post office in BURG. The Bereitschaft commander has the Telephone number 52.

9.

In DESSAU a second clothing store for police use was located.

From KOCHSTEDT all necessary furniture was supplied.

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[REDACTED] an order regarding new rates of pay for members in the Bereitschaften had been received from the DvDI. It is only a question as to when it comes into force. The new payment rate would be either 2,30 Eastmarks per day or 10, - Eastmarks per 10 days for the Bereitschaft members.

11. As from January 1950 all former police identity papers will be collected and new ones issued. These will be designated as "SOLDBUCH" and will be of the same size as the former German army books.

12. Police members had no regular leave up to the end of the year 1949. In the New Year each police member shall get 30 days leave of absence, if possible 15 days for Easter and 15 days for Xmas holidays.

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14. Informant states that all new police members, joining the police later than September 1949 have to sign a 3 years contract. This contract reads as follows:

"I enlist herewith for 3 years in the Volkspolizei and will willingly do my service, as demanded of me. Throughout this contract, I will serve for every progressive country".

The wording of the last sentence is taken by informant to indicate the possibility of the use of Bereitschaften, outside the People's Democracy of Eastern Germany.

15. The actual chief of the Bereitschaft is considered to be the Russian liaison officer, A Russian Major in Pol.-Rat uniform. He is about 45 years old, 1,70 metres tall, black hair, stout, very bad knowledge of German. He uses a Hauptwachmeister as interpreter.

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[REDACTED] appointed as a advisory official to the IPA HALLE/Saale Abteilung B, up to his transfer. He still resides still in Halle, but is expected soon to move to BURG. He uses a car [REDACTED] with a police member as driver. 25X1C

Informant is unable to give the name of this Russian Officer. It is thought that this Russian Officer receives all his orders from BERLIN-KARLSHORST, as he often visits there.

16. On 20th November 1949, a transport from the Bereitschaft of 240 men was to go to CZECHOSLOVAKIA. The purpose of this was not known and the only order received was to take weapons with them. For that transport only politically reliable police members were selected. They were issued with winter outfit, long boots, double hats, 2 blankets, rifles 98K and ammunition. The transport was headed by a Kommissar accompanied by the deputy P/K of the 3rd Company., 2 Hauptwachmeister and 2 Oberwachmeister. All other members had ranks of either Wachmeister or police Anwärter. [REDACTED]

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The transport left as arranged, by rail from Burg, but
it is not known to which destination.

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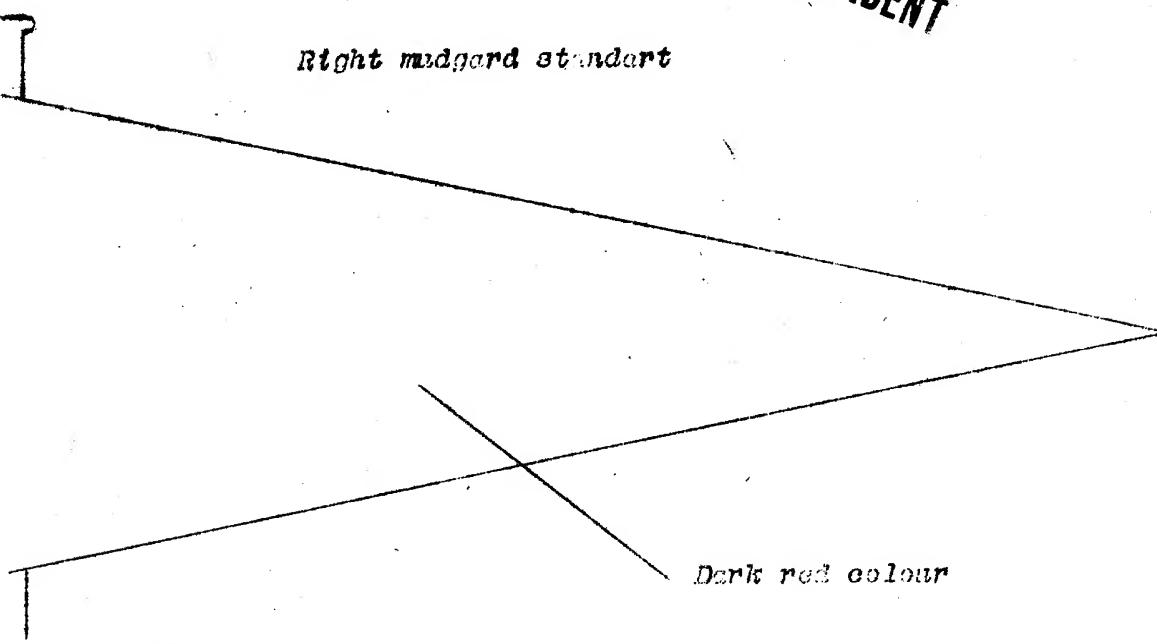
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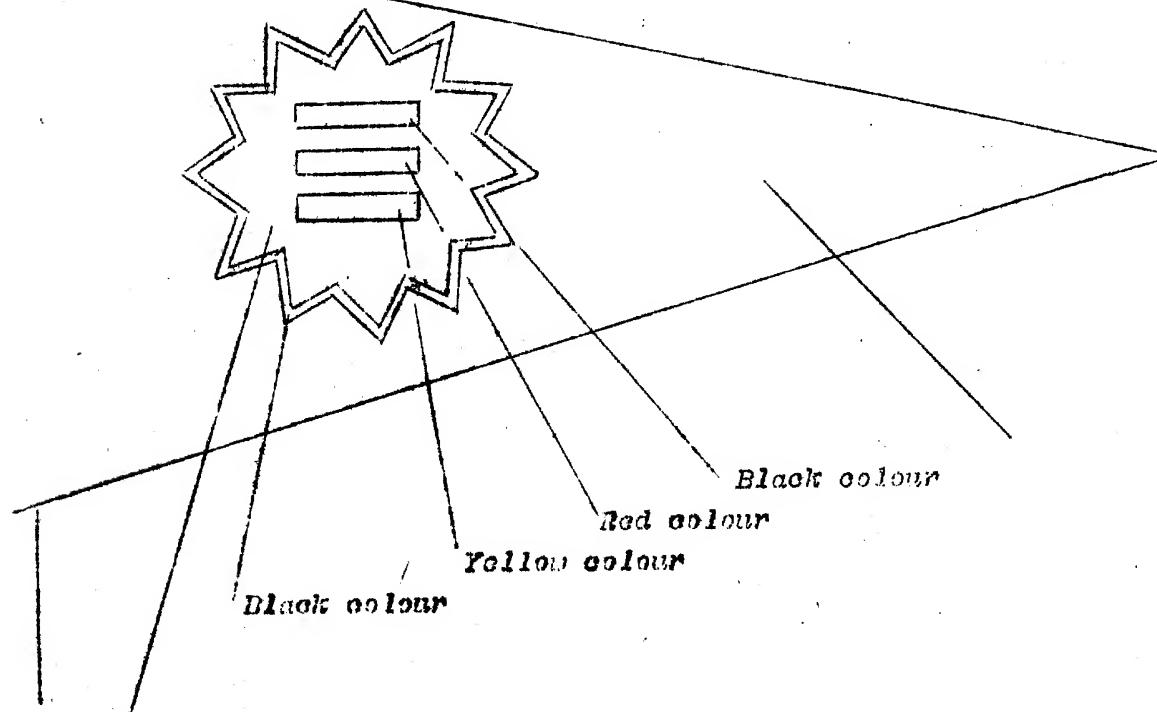
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Right mudguard standard



Left mudguard standard



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(Not to scale)